also been implementing the project for which funds have been released separately.

(c) A target of setting up of 3000 family type biogas plants has been fixed for the State of Orissa for 1990-91. With a view to popularising biogas plants in the State of Orissa, special steps taken are involvement of voluntary agencies in construction of biogas plants on turn-key basis-with two years free maintenance warranty; organisation of one-day training courses in operation and maintenance of biogas plants for users, particularly women; training of masons in flawless construction of cheaper and new modal of biogas plants and organisation of demonstration on utility of manure in farmers' fields.

Power Projects During Eighth Plan

1431. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any major power projects are proposed to be taken up during the Eighth Plan period; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Eighth Plan is yet to be finalised and details would be known only after the Plan is finalised.

Requirement of coal and lignite during the Eighth Plan

1432. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed country's coal and lignite requirements during the Eighth Plan;

(b) whether there was any shortage of these elements during the Seventh Plan period and whether this shortage is likely to continue during the Eighth plan period also; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c) The Eighth Five Year Plan for the development of coal and lignite industries is yet to be finalised.

Import of Coal

1433. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to continue imports of coal;

(b) if so, how much and the cost thereof;

(c) whether Government have any plan to evolve suitable utilisation of coal through blending, washing etc., to stop its import;

(d) what is the proposed amount of investment in this regard during the Eighth plan and how does it compare with that in the Seventh plan; and

(e) whether the investments made so far have been properly utilised?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During 1990-91, it is tentatively proposed to import 5.30 million tonnes of coking coal of CIF value Rs. 603.67 crores at current prices for use in Integrated Steel Plants.

(c) and (d) With a view to reduce the ash percentage of coal for supply to steel plants, the coal companies have already taken up modernisation of washeries at an estimated cost of Rs. 132 crores to be completed by 1992-93.

The total investment in washeries during the Seventh plan period is expected to be about Rs. 168 crores and that in the Eighth plan period has been tentatively estimated at Rs. 484 crores.

(e) Yes, Sir. On the basis of the steps taken, there has been an improvement in the quality of coking coal being supplied to steel plants in the first half of 1989-90 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

Khaskuthi Open Cast Project at Bhanora

1434. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that Eastern Coalfields Limited has recently commissioned the Khaskuthi Open Cast project at Bhanora;

(b) if so, what is the date of its commissioning;

(c) what are the details of its feasibility report, present status and the cost-benefit ratio; and

(d) whether this project has complied with all the statutory requirements.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Khaskuthi Open Cast Project in Bhanora Mine of Eastern Coalfield Ltd. was commissioned in July, 1989. The project involving a capital outlay of Rs. 19.50 lakhs (excluding cot of plant pool equipment) is expected to produce 20,000 tonnes of coal in 1989-90 and 75,000 tonnes in 1990-91. On the basis of the present cost of production and sale value, it has been estimated that there would be a profit of Rs. 258.36 per tonne of coal raised. Notice in regard to the opening the mines as per statutory requirement has been given to the Director General of Mines Safety by the coal company.

Subsidence in the underground mines of ECL

1435. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have information about heating. fire, gas. inrush, inundation and subsidence in the underground mines of ECL during the year 1989;

(b) whether Government have information about accidents that took place in the mines of ECL during the year 1989; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof, colliery-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following incidents relating to heating, fire and subsidence have been reported by Eastern Coalfields Limited in 1989:

INCIDENCE RELATING TO HEATING AND FIRE

Mine	Date of detecton	Cause
1. Ghusick	5-7-89	Spontaneous heating in partially stowed goaf.
2. Madhabpur	7-8-89	Spontaneous heating in old depillared panel.
3. Madhujor	10-8-89	Spontan ous heating in old goaved out area.